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COMPILED STATUTES OF THE UNITED STATES. Embracing the Statutes of the United States of a General and Permanent Nature in Force, Dec. 31, 1913. Compiled by JOHN A. MALLORY. St. Paul: WEST PUBLISHING Co. 1914. pp. Vol. I, ciii, 1190; Vol. II, vii, 1191-2320; Vol. III, v, 2321-3613; Vol. IV, ix, 3614-4863; Vol. V, iii, 4867-5686.

The bench and bar have long felt the necessity for a systematic edition of United States Statutes. Since the Revised Statutes of 1878, the first compilation was published in 1901, followed by biennial cumulative supplements, the last of which was published in 1911, and made a single volume of considerable bulk. The vast amount of federal legislation in recent times has rendered it expedient and even urgent that some one cast these many enactments into systematic form, and the editorial staff of the West Publishing Co., under the able tutelage of Mr. John A. Mallory, has come up fully to the requirements of the situation. Mr. Mallory edited the compilation of 1901, having first assisted in the preparation of the Revised Statutes of 1878, and he has accordingly well established his fitness to guide the course of the present undertaking.

In commenting upon this work, it is well to begin with those features which enable the practitioner to find what he wants without the necessity of a disagreeably lengthy search. The index certainly appears exhaustive, and, as the publishers assert, has been arranged by a number of eminent experts in statute indexing. There are a great number of topical heads, which do their best to mitigate the effects of Congress's tendency to indulge in lavish statute-making. The table of Acts from 1789 to date, set forth by their popular names, will be of great value as a short cut to the lawyer who has studied American legal history, or to him who reads his newspaper conscientiously. The index volume also contains a "Table of Revised Statutes Sections, showing amendments and repeals, with references to the sections of the Compiled Statutes where they are found, a Chronological Table of Laws, showing all acts included in the compilation, with references to Compiled Statutes sections, and a Table of Acts Repealed or Superseded, chronologically arranged, with references to explanatory and historical notes."

With these efficient instrumentalities for finding the desired statute, let us examine the nature of the material found in the first four volumes when the investigator has once ascertained what he wishes to find. The first features which strike the attention of the reviewer are the explanatory notes which follow the different sections, whenever any change has been made by reason of omission, addition, or modification. To illustrate the nature of these notes, an excerpt is here given, taken at random from Vol. 2 at page 1738:

"§ 4291. (Act May 6, 1882, c. 126, § 2, as amended, Act July 5, 1884, c. 220.) Masters of vessels landing Chinese laborers, punishable.

The master of any vessel who shall knowingly bring within the United States on such vessel, and land, or attempt to land, or permit to be landed any Chinese laborer, from any foreign port or place, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars for each and every such Chinese laborer so brought, and may also be imprisoned for a term not exceeding one year. (22 Stat. 59. 23 Stat. 115.)

See notes to § 1 of this act, ante, § 4290.

This section was amended by inserting, after the words "and land", the words "or attempt to land", as set forth here, by Act July 5, 1884, c. 220, cited above.

This application of the provisions of this section was extended by Act Oct. 1, 1888, c. 1064, § 3, post, § 4305.

Provisions somewhat similar to those of this section were made by Act Sept. 13, 1888, c. 1015, § 9, post, § 4310."

It may be noted that the section numbers are different from those employed in the Revised Statutes, which has been necessitated by the volume of legislation since 1878. Where, however, the particular enactment was contained in the Revised Statutes, the original section number has been indicated in parenthesis, following the particular section number in the Compiled Statutes.

In view of the vacillating state of mind which has often characterized the proceedings in our federal legislature, it is frequently difficult to ascertain the exact course of statutory repeal or modification, and accordingly the historical notes to which we have already adverted, should be of considerable value in arriving at the exact state of our written law, and in estimating the importance to be ascribed to a decision interpreting the terms of a particular enactment. The repeal of a statute is always indicated and is followed by such historical notes as are demanded from the nature of the enactment. The same is true of such laws as have been superseded.

The volumes proper are bound in the serviceable yellow buckram which has characterized the output of the publishers, and indicate on their exteriors, the titles, pages, and section numbers included in the particular volume. The work contains a great mass of matter within a comparatively small compass, and should be of great value to the judge or lawyer throughout the entire country.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

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ADDRESSES OF U. M. ROSE. With a brief memoir by GEORGE B. ROSE. Chicago: GEORGE I. JONES. 1914. pp. 412.

THE INDIVIDUAL DELINQUENT. By WILLIAM HEALY, M.D. Biston: LITTLE, BROWN & Co. 1915. pp. xvi, 830.

A HISTORY OF FRENCH PUBLIC LAW. By JEAN BRISSAUD. Translated by JAMES S. GARNER. Boston: LITTLE, BROWN & Co. 1915. pp. xxxiii, 581.

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LEGAL PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION. By HENRY BIXBY HEMMINGWAY. Chicago: T. H. FLOOD & Co. 1914. pp. xxxvi, 859.

THE FORMAL BASES OF LAW. Modern Legal Philosophy Series, Vol. X. By GIORGIO DEL VECCHIO. Translated by JOHN LISLE. Boston: THE BOSTON BOOK CO. 1914. pp. lvii, 412.

DAS SEEKRIEGSBRECHT. By GERICHSSASSESSOR DR. HANS WEHBERG. Stuttgart: W. KOHLHAMMER. 1915. pp. xi, 456.